

FIERCE CIVIL STRIFE

Viet Nam, inflation and race riots? Boycotts in the supermarkets, pollution in the atmosphere and crabgrass in suburbia? All serious threats to the Progress of Man and the Peace of Nations to be sure, but now one more thorn in the side of Civilization must be added to this woeful list — Illinois. There was bound to be trouble, considering the entrenched interests of the north and the upstarts from the south. Now this tinderbox of smoldering passion is aflame.

Enter then the Mighty Knights of the Embarras, whose spokesman is Wil Schuemann of Urbana. These Knights, being mounted on new and testy steeds, did flail the atmosphere successfully and, being mightily swelled up with pride, and not without justification, cast their bloody eyes about for equal adversaries. Lo, to the north they espied those Mighty Knights of the Round Thermal (notably that Mighty Knight of the Hot Air, Dale S. May), and the great gauntlet fell. And thus proclaimed the contenders:

"Located deep in the swamps of Naperville, Illinois, is the home of the Chicagoland Glider Club. This large group of rich, talented roustabouts have long set soaring standards in the Midwest. Before 1966 all state soaring records were held by Chicagoans. Unfortunately, this once-proud group has deteriorated. It seems apparent that the cause of this sad state of affairs can only be attributed to the influence of one Big Mouth. But be that as it May, the soaring community can take heart that all is not lost.

"In the center of a desolate plain in east-central Illinois a small group has banded together to preserve the good name of soaring in this area. This last summer we have sallied forth and broken and claimed 12 of the 16 Senior and Open records as well as three of the four Junior records. To do this we have flown 5000 cross-country miles in four and one-quarter gliders.

"Not wishing to seem condescending toward our northern neighbors, and in the hope that they can redeem themselves, we offer the following challenge. We propose a contest for the highest speed around a 500-km. triangle which originates in the state of Illinois. This contest would be administered by State Governor Bard un-

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der all the applicable F.A.I. rules. A suitable trophy, provided by the losing group, shall be presented to the winning group in a special ceremony at the banquet during the 1967 Midwest Labor Day Meet. This same trophy shall each year thereafter be presented at the Labor Day Meet to that group which has achieved the highest speed for the previously mentioned task within the 12 months preceding that meet. The possession of this trophy shall constitute positive and indisputable proof of superior soaring skill.

"We anxiously await what we hope will be a not-too-incoherent reply to our challenge."

THE MIGHTY KNIGHTS OF
THE EMBARRAS

Great was the consternation among the Mighty Knights of the Round Thermal (Big Mouth, Mealy Mouth, Jowls, Misty, Fatso, etc. ad circulum) and great the wrath of the Mighty Knight of the Hot Air. Although his exact reply has been, alas, misplaced he called the attention of all just and upright men to what an ignoble human sentiment jealousy is, to what heights upstarts, in the first flush of their success,

aspire and to how, once they meet the mighty host of the north, they are surely vanquished. He went on to lay out a constructive plan of action, designed to silence the invaders from the south at the very outset, namely to send several members of the CGC around a 1000-km. triangle on New Year's day, one of these upside down. (Knowing the club members, and considering the date, this audacious scheme might work.)

In the meantime, as history awaits the outcome of this terrible struggle, a suitably large shelf in the CGC clubhouse is being cleared.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STORY

The long-awaited National Geographic story on soaring is scheduled to appear in the January edition of that magazine. The 26-page article was checked very carefully for errors by the SSA office at the request of the National Geographic editors, a fact which should insure its accuracy. SSA members desiring a copy of the magazine may have it by sending their request with one dollar to the National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. 20036.